

The keys to the families, genera and species are well constructed and the contrasting characters have been carefully chosen. An ample glossary and bibliography are included. The authors have studied material in thirteen herbaria and the specimens upon which their study is based are cited. This puts the entire treatment on a firm basis of fact. It is an excellent example of how technical data can be added to a popular treatment without detracting from its value as a book that can be used by the layman.—R. M. TRYON, JR., Dartmouth College.

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PENTSTEMON LAEVIGATUS A MISNOMER.—In determining the species of a *Pentstemon* collected early in July along a brook in a field below Pinkham Notch, New Hampshire, difficulty was experienced because of a discrepancy between the material and the descriptions in Gray's Manual. Although in all other respects the plants corresponded to *P. laevigatus* Ait. var. *Digitalis* (Sweet) Gray, they showed decussate lines of pubescence along the internodes, whereas the description of the species reads "glabrous to the inflorescence." The specific name in itself refuted this identification yet no other possibility appeared.

An examination of the material at the Gray Herbarium disclosed the fact that all the specimens that had ever been attributed to either *P. laevigatus* or the variety *Digitalis* have the same general type of pubescence as that observed in the Pinkham Notch material. Decussate lines of pubescence are always present in the two lowest internodes. These in many cases persist up to the inflorescence or to a node short of it, but are increasingly inconspicuous at each higher internode. In some specimens the hairs become diffuse on the higher internodes although the decussate distribution reappears close to the nodes.

Hence it appears that an oversight, which has persisted from the time of Aiton, resulted in the attribution of an inappropriate name to *P. laevigatus* and also in incorrect descriptions throughout the literature.—JEANNETTE E. GRAUSTEIN, Women's College, University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware.

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